Since the introduction of economic liberalisation in the country, the total amount of FDI inflow in tourism sector from August, 1991 to February, 2005 is Rs. 1,059.66 crores.

Develoment of tourism in Punjab

3536. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Punjab has submitted any special plan for development of tourism in the State to remove regional imbalance;

(b) if so, the salient features and estimated cost thereof;

(c) the Central Government aid sought therefor; and

(d) Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Tube-Wells in Rural Areas

+3537. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH:
SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have fixed an amount of rupees thirty thousand per case for erecting tube-wells in rural areas while average cost of boring a tube-well in Madhya Pradesh has been assessed to be fifty thousand due to hilly and plateau structure of surface;

(b) whether Central Government are considering to increase the present amount of assistance to fifty thousand; and

(c) if so, by when, Government would consider to provide the increased amount to the State Government of Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAYPRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) Rural Drinking Water Supply is a State subject. The Central Government, however, provides financial assistance to the States to supplement their efforts in providing drinking water supply to the rural habitations through Centrally

†Ortginal notice of the question was received in Hindi.

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Sponsored Scheme namely, Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). The States are empowered to plan, sanction, implement and execute individual rural water supply projects and no specific cost norms have been laid for this.

In 2003-04, Government initiated three schemes for installation of one lakh hand pumps, revival of one lakh traditional sources and provision of drinking water facilities to one lakh rural primary schools in two years (2003-04 & 2004-05) as announced by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on Independence Day, 2002. The cost norms for these were fixed on all India average basis and these were Rs. 34,750/- per hand pump, Rs. 15,250/-per traditional source and Rs.30,000/- per school. The amount was released to the States as per these norms. The States were also authorized to dovetail funds from ARWSP (normal) and State resources in case the actual expenditure comes to be more than the cost norms. These schemes were only upto 31.03.2005.

Rapid Irrigation Benefit Programme

†3538. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria for providing Government assistance to the backward States under the Rapid Irrigation Benefit Programme;

(b) whether these criteria are different from that fixed for the hilly States, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government would ensure that Madhya Pradesh will not be discriminated against in comparison to the hilly States in the matter of providing assistance to the backward States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) was launched in 1996-97 by Government of India to provide Central Loan Assistance (CLA) to approved major/medium irrigation projects in the country, with the objective to accelerate the implementation of those projects which are beyond resources capability and the states and are in an advanced stage of completion.

There is no classification of States as backward States for providing CLA underAIBP. However, hilly States of Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Jammu

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